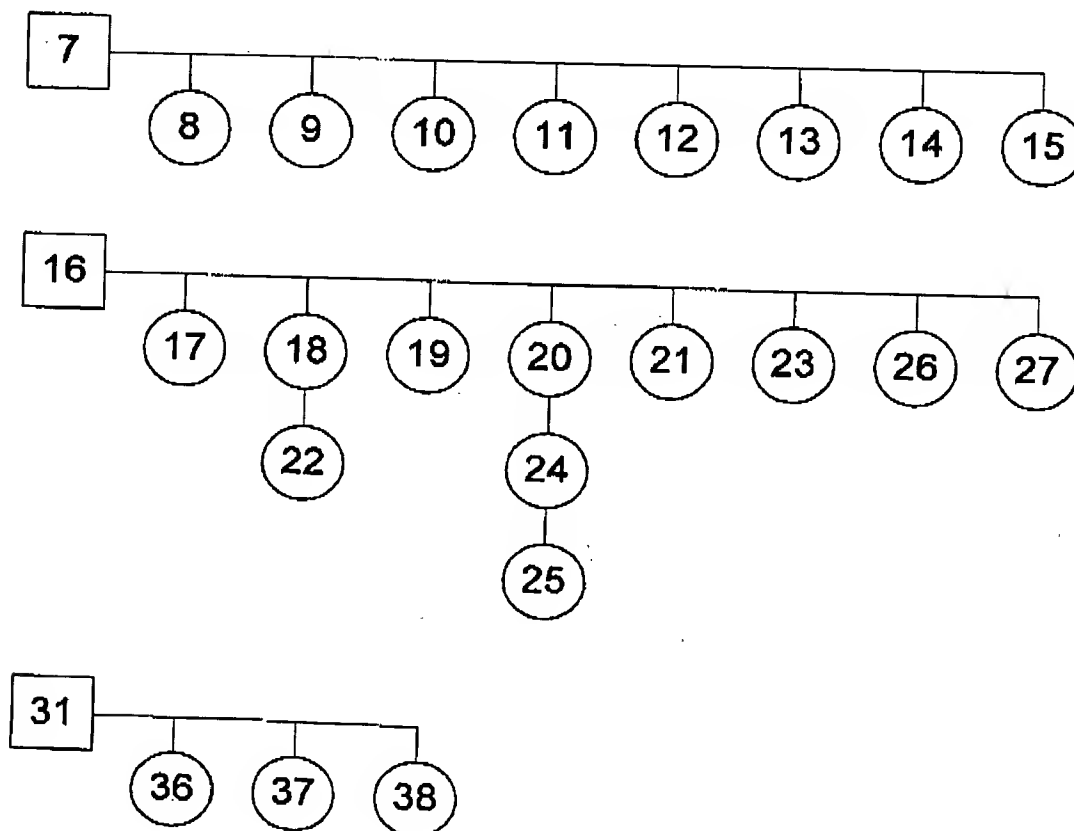


In re Application of COLLERAN et al.
Application No. 09/543,930

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested. A final Office action mailed May 21, 2004 is pending in the application. Applicants have carefully considered the Office action and the references of record. In the Office action, claims 1-15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, claims 1, 3 and 35 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102, claims 2, 4-6, 28-30 and 32-35 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103, claims 7-15 and 31 were objected to as dependent on a rejected base claim but were indicated as otherwise allowable, and claims 16-27 were allowed. In this response to the Office action, claims 1-6, 28-30 and 32-35 have been canceled, claims 7 and 31 have been amended, and claims 36-38 have been added. Therefore, claims 7-27, 31 and 36-38 are pending in the application. The following diagram depicts the relationship between the independent and dependent claims.



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Claim Objections and Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 7-15 and 31 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but were indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent form. Claims 7-15 and 31 have been herein amended so as to be in independent form, including all the limitations of their respective base claims.

In addition, claims 7-15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being incomplete for omitting "essential" claim limitations canceled in a previous amendment. While applicants dispute the necessarily essential nature of the claim limitations, in the interests of expediting prosecution of the present application, independent claim 7 has been herein further amended to incorporate the claim limitations so indicated. Furthermore, each of claims 8-15 is dependent on independent claim 7 and thus incorporates the claim limitations of independent claim 7 as amended.

Canceled and Amended Claims

Claims have been canceled and amended herein to claim subject matter indicated as allowable by Examiner and thus to expedite prosecution of the present application. Applicants explicitly reserve the right to prosecute same and similar claims, in particular claims of broader scope, in one or more continuation applications and other proceedings.

Newly Added Claims

Claims 36-38 have been added in this amendment to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the invention as described by the specification. In compliance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.121(f), they do not add new matter.

CONCLUSION

The application is considered in good and proper form for allowance, and the examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue. If, in the opinion of the examiner, a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of the subject application, the examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney.

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Respectfully submitted,



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